മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ശിവരാമമേനോൻ: ഉത്തരം.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

50. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) who is the appointing authority to the Supply Department;

(*b*) whether hands in other departments before being ordered to the Supply Department are reasonably enquired of as to their capacity and merits;

(*c*) whether the Departmental Heads or immediate superiors under whom the persons concerned were working previously are consulted before the hands are recruited to the Supply Department?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(*a*) In the case of the appointments to the Superior Service, the Government on the recommendation of the Staff Selection Board is the appointing authority. In the case of inferior servants, the power of appointment rests with the Director of Food Supplies.

(*b*) Yes, as far as possible.

(*c*) Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether two months back a certain hand has not been taken from the Office of the Diwan Peishkar to the Supply Department?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS—NULLIFICATION OF—BY THE DIRECTOR OF FOOD SUPPLIES

51. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether they are actually aware of the practice now existing of Government orders being nullified by the Director of Food Supplies by his oral and written instructions in his executive capacity in many instances?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: No.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know whether there was a Gazette notification empowering the Assistant Supply Officers to issue permits for the transport of paddy from taluk to taluk?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: Yes.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know further whether it was in fact permits were issued by the Supply Officers or the applications forwarded to the Director of Food Supplies, before they are issued?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: In the case of transport of rice, the Assistant Supply Officer was asked not to exercise that power except in urgent cases.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know, Sir, whether this was not communicated to the public in any manner?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: It was not.

RATION CARDS—CHECKING OF

52. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Will Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) if the ration cards have been thoroughly checked recently and by whom;

(*b*) if the checking staff have been authorised to increase or decrease the ration according to births or deaths as the case may be in each case concerned?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: (*a*) Yes; By the teachers of the Aided and Government Schools and Field Officers.

(*b*) The teachers were instructed to reduce the ration, if there was a reduction in the number of members. Instances in which an increased ration was found necessary were dealt with by the officers of this department on the reports made by the teachers.

Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi)*: May I know the reason why the teachers were not instructed to increase the ration?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: As regards the increase of the ration, we thought a further enquiry is necessary. So, they were not authorised.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ചെക്കുചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ കൂടുതൽ ആളുകളുണ്ടെന്നുകണ്ടിട്ട് അവർക്ക് കൂടുതൽ റേഷൻ അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*: When there was necessity for the increase they were allowed to report to us.

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കൂടുതൽ റേഷൻ അനുവദിക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഹർജികളിൽ എത്ര എണ്ണം ഇപ്പോൾ പെൻറിംഗിലുണ്ട്?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: കാണിപ്പയ്യൂരിൽ ൧൦൧ മുതൽ ൨൦൧ വരെയുള്ള റേഷൻ കാർഡുകാക്ക് ഷുഗർ കാർഡ് അനുവദിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നതിനും അവരിൽനിന്നും എത്ര ഹർജികൾ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* For reduction no enquiry is necessary. I ask why.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Because we find from experience that in several cases exaggerated claims are made.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Is it not a reflection on the integrity of the teachers that they are not given power to increase, but power only to reduce the ration.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Teachers are not expected to make elaborate enquiry in the course of their check. In the case of the reduction, nobody is expected to say that the number of members is less or that the rice or paddy is less.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* May I take it that the field officers have the power to increase the ration?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No. They have to report to the Assistant Supply Officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether in the grant of ration cards, it was not the identical teachers that have fixed the number of units?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* As far as the revision is concerned, where is the difficulty?

M. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was subsequently found that the number of people given is not correct.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* As a result of the revision, what was the reduction?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The number of persons was reduced to the extent of about 70,000 throughout the State.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ചെക്കിംഗ് കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ മാസമെത്രയായി?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* During the Onam holidays.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ചെക്കിംഗ് കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ട കൂടുതലുള്ള ആളുകൾക്ക ഇതുവരെ റേഷൻകാർഡു കിട്ടാതിരുന്നാൽ അവർ എങ്ങിനെ ജീവിക്കും?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Subsequently in cases where increase had to be given, we have given it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether out of this figure of 70,000 Government is in a position to tell us what is the fall as a result of necessitous deaths?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

ARTICLE IN THE "MALABAR MAIL"—"BLACK MARKET IN THE BOUNDARIES"

53. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they have noted in the "Malabar Mail," dated 3rd November 1943 the Editorial Article under the caption "അയൽത്തിയിലെ കരിഞ്ചന്ത"

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any steps to stop such black marketing and smuggling of rice out of the State;

(*c*) If so, what are those steps?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Police, the Excise and the Supply Department Officers in the locality have been instructed to be extremely vigilent, to patrol the suspected area constantly and to bring the culprits to book. Disciplinary action is being taken against officers found slack.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know the approximate time at which these instructions mentioned in (*c*) were given to the Forces, that is, how long after the 3rd of November when the article appeared?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Instructions were given even before.

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